

# Church Membership?

**Is it for me?**

**What does it mean?**

**Is it necessary?**

**The Church is very important because Jesus founded it.**

**The Church is referred to in the New Testament in several ways:**



- **Paul called the Church “Jesus’ Building.”**
  - *“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.” Ephesians 2:20*
- **Jesus is referred to as the Foundation of the Church, the very stabilizing Rock upon which it is built.**
  - *“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 3:11*
  - *“I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” Matthew 16:18*
- **Jesus is called the Church’s Cornerstone.**
  - *“Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.” Ephesians 2:20*
- **Paul speaks of the Church as Jesus’ Body.**
  - *“For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.” Ephesians 5:23*
- **Christ is the Head of the Church.**
  - *“He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18*
- **Christians constitute the members of Jesus’ Body. We function together as a unit under His leadership and authority.**
  - *“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.” Ephesians 5:29–30*

**The New Testament Greek word for “church” is “ecclesia,” which means “those who have been called out.” Christians have been called out and set apart (i.e., sanctified) from this world.**

- **We are Christ’s chosen people—in this world but not of it.**
  - *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9*
  - *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.” John 15:19*
- **The local church is at the heart of Christian activity on earth.**
- **The universal Church (i.e., all Christian believers) is made up of individual Christians who should belong to local churches.**

***Every believer should be an active member of a local church because if you love Jesus, the Head of the Church, you should also love other Christians, who are the Body of the Church. If you love the Foundation of the Church (Jesus), you should also love the Building (other Christians). If you love the Groom (Jesus), you should also love the Bride (the Church).***

**Generally speaking, the two primary requirements for joining a Baptist church are:**

**(1) knowing that you have been saved and**

**(2) being scripturally baptized. You should only consider joining a church that believes basic biblical doctrines such as:**

- The entire Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- Jesus is the divine, virgin-born, sinless, sacrificial, resurrected, returning, saving Son of God.
- Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus Christ is the only way to God.
- Christians should witness to lost people so they can be saved.

*Adapted from our friends at a sister church Bellevue Baptist*

